WELLINGTON (SOMERSET) RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1970

Medical Officer of Health:-

HUGH MORRISON

MARY STREET HOUSE, TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

Telephone - Taunton 87275/6

Qualifications - M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Residence - 1, Staplegrove Manor, Taunton, Somerset.

Telephone - Taunton 3304

Public Health Inspector:-

B. R. JAMES

R.D.C. OFFICES, WELLESLEY PARK, WELLINGTON, SOM.

Telephone - Wellington 2333/4

Qualifications - Cert. P.H.I.E.B., R.S.H.
Cert. as Meat Inspector.

Residence - 74 Waterloo Road, Wellington, Somerset.

Telephone - Wellington 2076

Clerk to the Council:-

P. WITCHELL ORCHARD, D.P.A.,

R.D.C. OFFICES, WELLESLEY PARK, WELLINGTON, SOM.

Telephone - Wellington 2333/4

Chairman of the Council:-

H. E. B. ELGAR, ESQ.,

WOOLCOMBE, SAMPFORD ARUNDEL, WELLINGTON, SOMERSET.

Telephone - Greenham 581

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:-

MRS. E. M. WILLIAMS,

ROSE COTTAGE, SAMPFORD ARUNDEL, WELLINGTON, SOMERSET.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1970

I. GENERAL

Area (in acres)	37,911
Estimate of Residential Population mid-year 1970... ...	8,430
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book on 31st December, 1970	2,923
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1970	£192,352
Sum Represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1970 ...	£801. 0. 0.

II. EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1970

With reference to the figures that follow, it should be pointed out that the standardisation of the rate of births and deaths allows for the differing ages and sex distribution of the populations in different areas, and is obtained by multiplying the crude rate by a comparability factor for the district furnished by the Registrar General. This enables comparison to be made with the figures for the country as a whole.

1. Births.

(a) Live Births

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	59	61	120
Illegitimate	3	4	7
	62	65	127

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.1

Standardised Birth Rate, Wellington R.D.	17.2
Birth Rate, England and Wales	16.0
Percentage Illegitimate of Total Live Births	6.0

(b) Still Births — Total ... 1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births -

Wellington R.D.	8.0
England and Wales..	13.0

Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population -

Wellington R.D.	0.11

2. Deaths.

(a) Total Deaths	106
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.. ...	12.6
Standardised Death Rate, Wellington R.D.	10.3
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.7
(b) Maternal Mortality	
Total Maternal Deaths from all causes...	0
(c) Infant Mortality	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age - Total	2
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births -	
Wellington R.D.	16.0
England and Wales..	18.0
(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	
Total	21

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1970

	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	-	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms	2	7	9
Leukemia, aleukemia	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	2	1	3
Other diseases of blood, etc.	-	-	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	-	-
Hypertensive disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic heart disease	10	12	22
Other forms of heart disease	2	2	4
Cerebrovascular disease	4	15	19
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	4	6
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	5	4	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	-	4
Asthma	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	3	-	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system,	-	1	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	-	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital anomalies	1	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
All causes - Total:	51	55	106

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1970

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 yr.
Congenital heart disease	-	-	1	-	1
Bronch-pneumonia	-	-	1	-	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

DOMICILIARY SERVICES

(1) Medical and Nursing - There are three general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the rural district. Practitioners from Wellington and from neighbouring districts also cover some of the territory. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset area and, speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are satisfactory and excellent work has been done by the Home Help Service administered by the County Council.

(2) Home Help Service - This service is now well established in the district and invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all public services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in the Wellington Rural District during 1970.

Old Age	47
Chronic Sick	5
Maternity	2
Child Care	1
Mental Illness	1
General Illness	2
	58

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the Government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of the various types of patients are detailed on the following pages:-

(1) General Medical and Surgical

Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to large institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

The main provision for hospital services for the area is made by the large general hospital at Musgrove Park in Taunton, which has a branch housing certain departments at East Reach, Taunton. All medical conditions, apart from certain cases requiring treatment at specialised regional centres, are dealt with at this hospital.

A new Accident Centre was opened during 1968 in association with the East Reach Branch Hospital already mentioned.

The ultimate plan for hospital services in the area is that a large new District Hospital should be erected on the outskirts of Taunton. Planning of this project is well advanced, but commencement of the work has been delayed because of the national economic situation.

(2) Chronic Sick

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment for the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of these cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on. There is also severe pressure on Part III accommodation for elderly people not requiring actual nursing, especially on the female side.

There were no cases during the year in which compulsory removal to a Hospital or other Institution had to be carried out under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. As seems to happen regularly every year, the circumstances of certain old people in the District had to be reviewed with this procedure in mind, but in each of these cases satisfactory arrangements for the time being were able to be made.

(3) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The pattern of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital is changing. Many of the patients admitted suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis is being brought under control by inoculation. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of this kind to the Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis - Cases of pulmonary and non pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at Wincanton and Taunton for pulmonary cases. Cases requiring orthopaedic treatment are becoming very uncommon but when they do occur arrangements for treatment are made according to the individual need.

(4) Mentally Sick

The modern trend is to treat cases of mental illness whenever possible in their own homes so that they may remain as members of the general community.

A Day Mental Hospital in Taunton performs a very useful function in this connection in enabling many patients to carry on at home who would otherwise require to have residential hospital care. When this type of care does prove necessary cases are admitted to Tone Vale Hospital. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patient clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients have a better outlook and are reaping the benefit of more successful methods of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of their disease.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Tuberculosis:

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass Radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the county population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in the Wellington Rural District.

Venereal Disease:

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. These conditions, which had for some years become rather uncommon in the district, have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with experience over the country as a whole.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington to which a considerable number of women from the Rural District are admitted for confinement. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital

treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

A valuable service is now provided for premature infants. Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to a Special Care Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital, an ambulance equipped with an Oxygen-aire incubator being sent to collect them from their homes. If the baby is deemed fit to be nursed at home, the district midwife can obtain advice and special equipment to help her with the management of the case.

Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton which undertakes the bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, faeces and sputum, etc. This service is available also to the doctors practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc. The co-operation and assistance of the Public Health Laboratory Staff in investigating all types of bacteriological and epidemiological problems is of the greatest value.

Ambulance Facilities:

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The main Ambulance Station and Control for the south-west of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at the 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:-

Vehicles	-	7 Ambulances
		8 Sitting-case Ambulances
Staff	-	6 Sub-officers
		22 Driver-attendants
		4 Leading ambulance-men

All vehicles at this Station are fitted with two-way radio.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Infectious Diseases

The following table gives the number of notifications received for the various notifiable diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1970

Disease	Number of cases notified
Measles	41
Food Poisoning	1
Pulmonary T.B.	1

IMMUNISATION

The protection against various infectious diseases which can now be given by immunisation is one of the most important of public health benefits, and has contributed largely to the decline in prevalence of these conditions and to the very great reduction in the number of deaths which they now cause. This work is going on steadily in Wellington Rural District as in other parts of the County.

The whole of the recording side of the procedure has now been transferred to the County Council Computer, and for this purpose children are grouped according to the family doctor on whose medical list they are It is logical and desirable that preventive medical procedures should to an increasing extent be among those benefits to the population available through the family doctor under the National Health Service. It is no longer possible to give figures of the number of children immunised at various ages in any particular local authority area, and thus the percentage rate of immunisation against different diseases cannot be stated. An up-to-date schedule of the immunisation programme recommended for children is appended, together with brief notes on the diseases against which the procedure is aimed.

AGE	IMMUNISATION PROCEDURE
4 months	First Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus Oral Polio Vaccine
6 months	Second Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus Oral Polio Vaccine
12 months	Third Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus Oral Polio Vaccine
18 months	Smallpox Vaccination
13 months-2 years	Measles Vaccination
4½ years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Polio Vaccine Smallpox Re-vaccination 4 weeks or more after this booster
Over 11 years	B.C.G.
11-13 years	German Measles Vaccination (girls only)
14½ years	Oral Polio Vaccine Tetanus Toxoid Smallpox Re-vaccination 4 weeks later

Diphtheria

Immunisation against diphtheria was the first mass campaign of protection against an infectious disease carried out in this country, apart from vaccination against smallpox which has never been applied to such a wide extent. The result is that, whereas there used to be thousands of deaths from diphtheria each year in England and Wales, the mortality is now almost down to vanishing point. It is necessary for the percentage of protected children in the community to be kept high in order to avoid the recurrence of outbreaks.

Whooping Cough

This is now probably the most generally disabling of the common infectious diseases affecting young children. There are risks to life, especially in infants, and lung complications can be severe and prolonged. Immunisation is preventive in a good proportion of cases and in the remainder modifies the disease to produce a mild attack.

Tetanus

This is an uncommon infection in this country but important because of its very severe character and the high rate of mortality in those affected. It is much commoner in some of the less developed parts of the world, and even in Europe at least 26,000 have died from this cause in the past ten years. Immunisation gives the practical certainty of complete protection.

Poliomyelitis

It is hardly necessary to stress the misery which can result from this disease in view of the widespread epidemics which have occurred in this country within recent memory. Many of the sufferers die, and others are left with a lifetime of disablement. Immunisation is now simple with the use of vaccine given by mouth and has been largely responsible for the virtual elimination of poliomyelitis as a serious epidemic risk in this country at the present time. Here again it is essential that a high proportion of children continue to be immunised in order to avoid the danger of further outbreaks.

Smallpox

Smallpox is one of the most deadly of all infectious diseases. Its incidence in this country has been confined in latter years to scattered outbreaks, but the dangers of large-scale epidemics are increasing owing to the ease and rapidity of air transport from countries where the disease is still endemic. Vaccination gives excellent protection, and is best done initially in the second year of life.

Measles

This has always been a very common infection among children, with far from negligible risks to thosein the younger age groups especially. Immunisation is now being carried out against this disease and it is hoped that widespread outbreaks will, in time, become a thing of the past.

German Measles

Immunisation against German Measles is now being offered and encouraged for girls between the ages of 11 and 13 years. This is an effort to avoid the risks of congenital defects in children born to mothers who suffer from an attack of German Measles during the early stages of pregnancy.

Tuberculosis

One of the most dramatic improvements in the state of the national health has been the enormous fall over the period since the last war, in the prevalence of tuberculosis and in the number of deaths which it causes. There are many factors responsible for this gratifying development, and one of them undoubtedly is the beneficial effect of the widespread campaign of immunisation with B.C.G. which has been carried out.

76 children attending school in the Wellington Rural District were given the Heaf Test and 58 were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The public water supplies of the district are now under the control of the West Somerset Water Board, of whose area Wellington Rural District forms one portion. The service provided by the Board is proving very satisfactory and it is the experience of this Public Health Department that any complaints which arise and any defects which come to light are given very prompt attention, and matters are quickly set to rights.

During the year 1970 there were no serious shortages and ample supplies were maintained to all consumers in the area. Bacteriological and chemical sampling, which are carried out by the Board's technical staff, show that the supply has been safe and satisfactory. A series of 25 bacteriological samples of treated water all showed satisfactory results. 12 chemical samples were examined and these also showed satisfactory results. Additional checks are made from time to time by this department and these confirm the purity of the supply.

The number of properties dependent on wells and private supplies form a relatively small proportion of dwelling houses in the district. These are tested regularly and a summary of the test findings is included in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The drainage and sewage disposal in the various parishes of the district is set out in the Public Health Inspector's Report as it existed at the end of 1970. The enlargement of the works at Milverton, drainage arrangements at Sampford Arundel and sewerage of Holywell Lake are regarded as urgent matters. Engineering schemes for all these localities have been deposited with the Ministry and approval was awaited at the end of the year.

The remainder of the district is dependent on septic tanks and a diminishing number of pail closets. Public Health and amenity demand improved sewerage provisions and this need grows particularly urgent when main water supplies become widely distributed.

There is an increasing demand for a septic tank and cesspool emptying service to be operated by the Council.

Public Cleansing

Household refuse is collected weekly from Wiveliscombe and Milverton and fortnightly from the rest of the district and it is disposed of by controlled tipping. One would hope that at least the more built-up areas surrounding the villages could be given a weekly collection since, to all intents and purposes, their circumstances are the same as obtained in the surroundings of such places as Wiveliscombe and Milverton.

Decomposition of the organic portion of the refuse takes place to a marked extent in this period of time, with the production of foul smells, which cannot be entirely eliminated even by the use of a sound refuse bin covered by a close fitting lid. The danger and annoyance from fly nuisance is much increased when the refuse is allowed to stand about for more than a week. In hot weather it is possible for a new generation of flies to hatch out from eggs deposited in the refuse. The possibility of the spread of disease from this source is well known.

The nature of the refuse to be collected has changed in recent times because of the much greater quantity of tins and packaged foods of all sorts which are now in use. The general effect is to render the refuse more bulky and less easily destructible. The general trend throughout the country is to provide refuse collections at intervals of not more than a week. This is a service which the population at large are coming to expect as a hygienic and proper method of dealing with the problem.

Housing

During 1970, ten houses were completed at Langford Budville

Eight houses previously closed were reconstructed and rendered fit for habitation, one house was dealt with by a Closing Order and four houses were demolished.

There is still a need for council house provision - this applies particularly to old and disabled people, a number of whom have been on the housing list for some considerable time. Efforts are constantly being made to arrange exchanges with a view to providing more suitable accommodation for individual tenants.

The number of Improvement Grants applied for was rather better than in recent years. During 1970 twenty-seven Discretionary Grants in respect of thirty-one dwellings and seven Standard Grants were received and approved.

Schemes commenced or completed during the year

Council Housing:

Ten new houses at Langford Budville were completed.

WATER SUPPLY

Public supplies are under the control of the West Somerset Water Board.

Outlying parts of the following parishes are served by small private supplies, wells and springs:-

Ashbrittle	Stawley
Bathealton	Thorne St. Margaret
Chipstable	Wellington Without
Langford Budville	Wiveliscombe Without

PIPED SUPPLIES

Results of Samples taken for analysis and Bacteriological Examination

RAW WATER				TREATED WATER			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
9	3	1	-	27	-	1	-

None of the supplies is known to have plumbo-solvent action.

WELL WATER:

SATISFACTORY		UNSATISFACTORY	
BACTERIOLOGICAL	CHEMICAL	BACTERIOLOGICAL	CHEMICAL
4	-	-	-

WATER SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC MAINS:

Parish	Number of houses supplied direct	Population	Number of houses supplied by stand-pipes	Population
ASHBRITTLE	45	134	-	-
BATHEALTON	20	41	-	-
BRADFORD-ON-TONE	196	641	-	-
CHIPSTABLE	36	108	-	-
FITZHEAD	75	225	-	-
LANGFORD BUDVILLE	120	350	-	-
MILVERTON	517	1558	-	-
NYNEHEAD	81	242	-	-
OAKE	179	447	-	-
SAMPFORD ARUNDEL	110	322	-	-
STAWLEY	57	170	-	-
THORNE ST. MARGARET	18	49	-	-
WELLINGTON WITHOUT	134	361	-	-
WEST BUCKLAND	276	809	-	-
WIVELISCOMBE	459	1486	-	-
WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT	204	614	-	-
	2527	7557	-	-

The following summary shows, in alphabetical order, the present water supplies in the District by Parishes, giving their acreage and the number of dwellings.

ASHBRITTLE: 2,158 acres 66 inhabited dwellings

The village and immediate surroundings are served by the S. W. Parishes Supply. Outlying properties have private springs and wells.

BATHEALTON: 2,598 acres 58 inhabited dwellings

Village supplied by N. & C. Parishes Supply, outlying properties have wells and springs.

BRADFORD: 1,814 acres 213 inhabited dwellings

Piped supply through Parish from Taunton Area Supply.

CHIPSTABLE: 3,455 acres 89 inhabited dwellings

Chipstable Village

Water from a borehole constructed in 1962 supplies the village. This supply is satisfactory and adequate.

Waterrow Village

Spring supply laid on to most of the properties in the village. The water is chlorinated. Remainder of Parish - wells and springs.

FITZHEAD: 1,247 acres 75 inhabited dwellings

Piped supply from Taunton mains. Most of the houses are supplied from this main.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 acres 149 inhabited dwellings

Main supply to the village and to Wellisford, Bindon and Runnington. The Chipley area is served by a satisfactory private supply.

MILVERTON: 3,465 acres 515 inhabited dwellings

Main supply. The Olands bore is retained in case of emergency.

NYNEHEAD: 1,706 acres 90 inhabited dwellings

Piped supply from the N. & C. Parishes Supply

OAKE: 1,754 acres 208 inhabited dwellings

Mains supply serves most of the Parish.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 acres 117 inhabited dwellings

Main supply to the village, Sampford Moor and White Ball.

STAWLEY: 2,663 acres 80 inhabited dwellings

Main supply to Tracebridge, Appley, Greenham, Stawley and Kittisford, the remainder by wells and springs.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 824 acres 28 inhabited dwellings

The village is now supplied from the main. Outlying premises are supplied by springs and wells.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 acres 176 inhabited dwellings

Main supply to Holywell Lake, Ford Street, Voxmoor and Wrangway. Remainder of Parish from springs and wells.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 acres 304 inhabited dwellings

The whole parish (except for a few outlying properties) is supplied from the main.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 acres 466 inhabited dwellings

Piped supply from the main. The borehole is retained for use in emergency.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT: 5,904 acres 289 inhabited dwellings

Langley, Langley Marsh, Maundown, Ford and Croford are supplied from the main.

The Nunnington Park area has private wells and springs, some of which are unsatisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

ASHBRITTLE: 2,158 acres 66 inhabited dwellings

A sewer serving the centre of the village takes waste and surface water only. Eight Council houses are drained to a septic tank and filter. The compact nature of the village makes the provision of a sewerage scheme desirable.

BATHEALTON: 2,598 acres 58 inhabited dwellings

Three Council houses drain to a septic tank and filter and there are some privately owned septic tanks. Other houses have waste water drains to ditches and earth closets.

BRADFORD: 1,814 acres 213 inhabited dwellings

The sewerage scheme serves the whole Parish (except Hele and a few other properties) as well as Hockaller, Ham and Chelston in the Parish of West Buckland. Most houses are now connected.

CHIPSTABLE: 3,455 acres 89 inhabited dwellings

A small sewer in the centre of the village takes waste water only. A number of properties including eight Council houses drain to septic tanks but there are still some earth closets. Some properties at Waterrow drain to the River Tone but there is little nuisance on account of heavy dilution with river water.

FITZHEAD: 1,247 acres 75 inhabited dwellings

Most of the properties in the village have been connected to the sewers.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 acres 149 inhabited dwellings

Most properties in the village are connected to the main sewerage system. Small sewers at Runnington have no proper disposal works. Properties at Chipley, Bindon and Wellisford drain to septic tanks and conditions are reasonably satisfactory.

MILVERTON: 3,465 acres 515 inhabited dwellings

Except for some outlying properties, all premises in Milverton and Preston area are connected to the sewerage system. The disposal works consist of primary and secondary settlement tanks and bacteria beds. These are working to full capacity and until they are enlarged no further development is possible. A scheme for enlarging the disposal works and for the provision of a surface water sewer has been prepared.

NYNEHEAD: 1,706 acres 90 inhabited dwellings

Most properties in Higher and Lower Nynehead are connected to the sewerage system with adequate disposal works.

OAKE: 1,754 acres 208 inhabited dwellings

Oake Village is served by sewers and sewage disposal works but these have become overloaded. Properties at Hillcommon and Hillfarrance drain mainly to septic tanks. A scheme to provide sewers at Hillfarrance and to pump the sewage to the Bradford works is awaiting Ministry approval. The need for this scheme is very urgent.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 acres 117 inhabited dwellings

There are small sewers at Sampford Moor, Sampford Village, Beam Bridge and White Ball and the discharges from these and other individual properties cause nuisances.

The Council houses and a few other properties, including the school, drain to septic tanks with filters. A sewerage scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers is still under consideration by the Ministry but has not yet been approved.

STAWLEY: 2,663 acres 80 inhabited dwellings

The School and four Council houses at Appley drain to a septic tank and filter. All other houses have separate drainage arrangements to septic tanks etc. There are some pail closets.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 824 acres 28 inhabited dwellings

Most of the houses drain to septic tanks.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 acres 176 inhabited dwellings

Holywell Lake has a sewer and "temporary" disposal works. These works were constructed more than twenty years ago. The Council's proposals for new disposal works and sewer extension are still under consideration.

Wrangway and Ford Street

Most of the houses drain to septic tanks.

Other outlying properties have individual disposal arrangements by septic tanks etc.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 acres 304 inhabited dwellings

Most of the houses in West Buckland Village are connected to the public sewer. The disposal works are overloaded and a scheme has been prepared to connect the sewage to the Bradford system. Houses at Ham, Chelston, Hockaller and Willowbrook are already connected to the Bradford sewerage scheme. Houses at Poole drain to the river causing some pollution. There are some drainage difficulties at Sawyers Hill and this area needs to be sewered.

The more remote properties have separate drainage arrangements.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 acres 466 inhabited dwellings

All properties are connected to the sewers, most of which have been re-laid. There are disposal plants consisting of settlement tanks, bacteria beds etc. at Style and Hillsmoor. The Hillsmoor works deals with a large quantity of trade drainage from a poultry processing plant.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT: 5,904 acres 289 inhabited dwellings

Houses at Langley and Langley Marsh are connected to a public sewer which discharges into the Style disposal works.

Four Council houses at Croford drain to a septic tank and filter.

Most other houses have septic tanks but there are some pail closets.

DRAINAGE

The disposal of contents of septic tanks and cesspools is becoming more difficult owing to the fact that septic tanks appear to require more frequent emptying than in the past.

This difficulty should be met by the provision of disposal arrangements at one of the larger sewage works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collections are made as follows :-

Milverton and Wiveliscombe	-	Weekly
Remainder of District	-	Fortnightly

Disposal is by controlled tipping and conditions have remained satisfactory during the year.

There appears to be an increasing demand for more frequent collections from built-up areas and some other premises which have a fortnightly collection only.

SCHOOLS

All the schools in the district have mains water and drainage is connected to public sewers except at Sampford Arundel and Stawley where it is connected to drainage systems serving Council estates.

SWIMMING BATH

The re-circulating and chlorinating plant operated satisfactorily.
On one occasion the bath became contaminated with flood water and had to be emptied and refilled.

HIGHWAY LAY-BYS

The public conveniences on the Trunk Road A 38 at Chelston were well used throughout the year.

The need for similar provision at a suitable point on the A 361 is apparent.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following are details of inspections made during the year :-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(I) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	13	28	1	-
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	50	-	-
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	78	1	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	1	-	-	1	-

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number and nature of inspections during the year 1970 :-

(a) Dwellinghouses	1103
(b) Food Premises	332
(c) Factories etc.	71
(d) Water Supplies	80
(e) Drainage	214
(f) Moveable Dwellings	47
(g) Swimming Bath	24
(h) Miscellaneous	127
	1998

Number of Notices served during the year :-

Informal Notices	51
Statutory Notices	7

Result of service of Notices :-

Total Notices complied with	51
Notices standing over at the end of 1970	7

Camping Sites - Licences in force authorising the use of a site for moveable dwellings	1
- Licences issued by the Council authorising the use of moveable dwellings	10
Smoke Abatement - Complaints of nuisance dealt with and abatement secured	-

Wiveliscombe Swimming Bath

Samples taken for bacteriological examination	10
Samples found to be satisfactory	7
Samples found to be slightly unsatisfactory	1
Samples found to be unsatisfactory	2

Offensive Trades - Number of offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1936	-
Water - Samples of piped supplies examined during the year	41
Bakehouses - Number of inspections of the three bakehouses in the District	15

All the bakehouses draw their water supply from public mains.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS

1. Number of food premises in the area.....	72
2. Number of food premises registered under Section 15 -	
(a) For the sale of ice cream	39
(b) For preparation of other food	5
3. Number of inspections of registered food premises	78
4. Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	50
5. Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	33
6. Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19	33

The food premises are in the following categories of trade :-

Grocers	8
Butchers	4
General Stores	23
Bakeries	3
Confectioners	2
Hotels and Inns	21
Cafes	9
Poultry Packers	2
	72

Inspections have continued during the year and the general standard of food premises is satisfactory.

MEAT

There are two licenced slaughterhouses in the district and one of these is in regular use. Regular inspections are carried out. Details of inspections and condemnations are as follows :-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	290	31	36	1482	479
All diseases except Tuberculosis -					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	4	1	8	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	6.9	13.0	5.6	0.6	1.5
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Other	190	44	41	42	38
Total (in lbs.) condemned	190	44	41	42	38

All condemned meat is stained or sterilised in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The two slaughterhouses are used by three retail butchers in the area. The appointed day under the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) and (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations was January 1st 1962.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

One case of food poisoning was reported. This case concerned a young adult. The case was investigated and found to be due to Salmonellae infection.

Tuberculosis Order 1925

Cows slaughtered during the year under this Order ..... Nil.

POULTRY INSPECTION

1. Number of poultry processing premises in the District 1
2. Number of visits to these premises 84
3. Total number of birds processed during the year 3,278,431
4. Type of bird processed ..... Broilers
5. Percentage rejected as unfit for human consumption 1.3
6. Weight of poultry rejected as unfit (lbs.) 51,000

The factory operates a "spotter" system at various points on the killing and evisceration line etc. Check inspections of carcases and offal are carried out during inspections of the factory which are as frequent as possible.

Water is obtained from a private supply and is chlorinated.

Chlorination is boosted by drip feeds into the washer and chiller tanks. Samples of water taken from the inlet to the washer tank and the outlet of the chiller tanks are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Salmonellae. Three samples from the washer taken were reported as 'positive'. All other reports were negative.

In accordance with Sect. 91 Food & Drugs Act 1955 sample carcases have also been submitted for Salmonella investigation. All have been reported 'negative.

During the year the packers commenced inserting with each bird instructions for thawing and cooking.

Council Houses

The following table shows the Parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts :-

Parish	Address	No. of houses	Total for Parish	Total No. of occupants
ASHBRITTLE	Rectory Road	8	8	29
BATHEALTON	Avis Cottages	3	3	12
BRADFORD-ON-TONE	Regents Green	4		
	Tone Green	8	12	38
CHIPSTABLE	Miltons	4		
	Bouchers, Waterrow	4	8	31
FITZHEAD	Church Road	8		
	Hills Cottages	6	14	35
LANGFORD BUDVILLE	Reynolds	6		
	Swifts	28	34	106
MILVERTON	Lower Fairfield	8		
	Fairfield Terrace	8		
	Newfield	4		
	Courtfield	40		
	Houndsmoor	4		
	Doltons	2		
	Torrells, Hillcommon	4		
	Ashford Close	8		
	Creedwell Orchard	74	152	421
NYNEHEAD	Farthings Close	16	16	46
OAKE	Bridge Cottages	4		
	Oake Close	37		
	Oake Acres	6	47	143
SAMPFORD ARUNDEL	Breach Hill	6		
	Weekes Meadow	8		
	Gorlegg	4	18	45
STAWLEY	Appley Cross	4	4	17
WELLINGTON W'OUT	Lake Cottages, H. Lake	4		
	Corams	4	8	28
WEST BUCKLAND	Sawyers Hill	4		
	Holway Cottages	4		
	Budgetts Cross	8		
	Castle Cottages, Ham	26		
	Crown Hill	10		
	Frogs Lane	8	60	195
WIVELISCOMBE	Northgate	53		
	Plain Pond (partly in Wiveliscombe W'out)	72		
	Southgate	28		
	Stockers Close	16		
	Style Road	10	179	570
WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT	Allenslade Flats	8		
	Croford	4		
	Langley Cross	14		
	Langley Marsh	4	30	91
	Totals:		593	1807

Council tenants are respomsible for the internal maintenance of their houses. The number of unsatisfactorily maintained houses in 1970 was 35.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

A part-time operator is employed. During the year the sewage disposal works and refuse dump were treated systematically. Private dwellinghouses and business premises were also treated following complaints or where infestations were found by the operator.

Attention has been paid to highway lay-bys and surrounding land which are the cause of complaints of infestation as well as of nuisance.

Following is the report on inspections and treatments as submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

Properties other than sewers	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	3437	39
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	47	1
(b) Number infested by (I) Rats	42	1
(II) Mice	1	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	30	9
(b) Number infested by (I) Rats	10	0
(II) Mice	-	4

All sewerage systems were test baited and found to be free of infestation.

HOUSING

One house condemned before the war was still occupied at the end of the year.

(1)	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	18
(2)	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	30
(3)	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	1
(4)	The number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works	-
(5)	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	8
(6)	The number of demolition or closing orders made ...	1
(7)	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957	-
(8)	The number of houses demolished	2

Langford Budville Common - Byelaws under the Commons Act 1899 are in force. No action was necessary during the year.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order :-

The Council are now responsible for the enforcement of this order, under which seven persons are licenced. The premises have been inspected for compliance with the order and for the detection of rodent infestation and have been found to be reasonably satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following schedule shows the number of premises registered at the end of the year with the number of employees and inspections.

	Premises Registered	Employees	Inspected
Offices	21	57	14
Retail Shops	27	96	25
Wholesale Depots and Warehouses	6	12	6
Catering Establishment	8	27	8
Fuel Storage Depots	1	3	1
TOTALS:	63	195	54

No additional registration was made. A small number of deletions from the register was caused by changes in occupation and closing of premises.

Inspections continued, often in conjunction with other duties.

Generally, working conditions have improved and contraventions concerned mainly items of day-to-day maintenance.

One accident was reported and was investigated. Since the commencement of the Act only four accidents have been reported and it is interesting to note that three of these concerned the same person. Every opportunity is taken to emphasise the need to report accidents.